

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Donald Natzke, Director
March 10, 2014

MINUTES

St. John's Properties
1800 N. Prospect Ave
1:00 PM

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the March meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:03pm.

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Luis Arroyo
Deb Falk-Palec
John Haupt
Tom Jacobs
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Denise Koss
Don Richards

Absent or Excused:

Barbara Leigh
Cheri Mc Grath
Susan Pickering
Meg Steimle
Kathryn Zalewski

Staff:

Mike Bonk
Tim Ochnikowski

Guests:

Chris fox, MCTS
Tom Kenney, MCTS
Don Natzke, MCTS
Barkley Sample, Easter Seals
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February)

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the minutes. Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Mr. Kenney indicated that there have been some staff changes and he reviewed those changes (Mr. Fox and Mr. Natzke were introduced as new staff). Recently the first drivers training class was held and went well. The audit was completed and it was good. The New Freedom program is funded for 2014 and they anticipate that it will be funded next year as well. The new bus features are coming soon and those were reviewed. ADA boardings on the fixed route buses remains slow, mainly due to the terrible winter weather. Discussion took place regarding the coming bus enunciator system, the funding for New Freedom, the staff changes and the drivers training class.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (February)

Mr. Ochnikowski indicated that the office has had a vacancy in the Director's position, as we know. The DAS Director has asked Mr. Ochnikowski to take the position on an "acting" basis until a decision can be made on a permanent appointment of a person to the position. The entire staff are picking up extra "duties as assigned" in order to make this happen. The next DAS quarterly meeting will take place on May 1 at Wil-O-Way Underwood. As a way of welcoming



the nearly 200 people to the facility, many for the first time, the commission might want to consider sponsoring refreshments (cookies, water, juice, etc.) for the meeting out of the commission's trust fund.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Natzke indicated that County Supervisor Jursik and the Department on Aging (DoA) have been very active on the bus stop at Southridge issue. There's a meeting scheduled for March 25 at St. Alphonsus Church in Greendale. There's also another gathering at Southridge planned for April. DoA has been working hard on collecting signatures on petitions.

Mr. Bonk gave an overview of the respite / summer camp at Holler Park. The financial issues of the parks department wanting the utility costs and pool pass costs covered in order for Easter Seals to use Holler Park were highlighted. Disability Services Division is involved and is trying to help out with the financial obligations. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss this.

Mr. Ochnikowski indicated that the Parks Department is looking to expand the beer garden opportunities in Humboldt Park (Milwaukee) and at Scout Lake (Greendale). The office will be watching these projects as they progress. We'll be working with them to achieve as much accessibility as possible.

Mr. Bonk gave a review of the programs offered by Easter Seals and participation rates at both Wil-O-Way Grant and Underwood. The center based activities are declining in interest and the community based activities are drawing more interest. Some class details were shared. It seems that passive activities are drawing more interest and physical-type activities are declining in interest. The upcoming adaptive Sports Expo was mentioned. The organizers are looking for a place to hold the expo. Easter Seals will again be doing a respite care week during spring break. Discussion took place regarding The Ability Center.

Chair Falk-Palec indicated that Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki will be going before the County Board's Health and Human Needs Committee on March 12th for his confirmation review. The May meeting of the Commission will be at the Downtown Library (Talking Books area). We anticipate receiving an update from the Connections in Sight program as we gave them \$5,000 last year.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 1:53pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, April 14, 2014 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission